

CLAIMS

1. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body.
2. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof used in the manufacture of a medicament.
3. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to either one of claims 1 and 2, the bacterium being an enterococcus.
4. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to claim 3, the bacterium being selected from one of the group of *E. faecium*, *E. faecalis*, *E. avium*, *E. gallinarium*, *E. durans*, *E. mundtii* and *E. casseflavus*.
5. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to either one of claims 3 and 4, the ABC transporter protein being selected from the group of 97 and 54 kDa immunodominant conserved antigens.
6. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, the immunogenic fragment comprising an ATP binding site or a part thereof.

7. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, the bacterium being an enterococcus and the immunogenic fragment having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.
8. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to claim 7, the bacterium being *E.faecium* and the immunogenic fragment having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.
9. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1-6, the bacterium being *E.faecium* and the immunogenic fragment having the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 5-8
10. A neutralising agent specific to a bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims.
11. A neutralising agent specific to a bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or immunogenic fragment thereof according to claim 10 for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body.
12. A neutralising agent specific to a bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or immunogenic fragment thereof according to claim 10 used in the manufacture of a medicament.
13. A method of treatment of the human or animal body comprising treating a patient with a bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment

thereof or a neutralising agent specific thereto according to any one of the preceding claims.

14. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof for use in a method of diagnosis of the human or animal body.

15. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof used in method of diagnosis.

16. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to either one of claims 14 and 15, the bacterium being an enterococcus.

17. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to claim 16, the bacterium being selected from one of the group of *E. faecium*, *E. faecalis*, *E. avium*, *E. gallinarium*, *E. durans*, *E. mundtii* and *E. casseflavus*.

18. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to either one of claims 16 and 17, the ABC transporter protein being selected from the group of 97 and 54 kDa immunodominant conserved antigens.

19. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of claims 14-18, the immunogenic fragment comprising an ATP binding site or a part thereof.

20. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of the claims 14-19, the bacterium being an enterococcus and the immunogenic fragment having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

21. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to claim 20, the bacterium being *E.faecium* and the immunogenic fragment having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4

22. A bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of claims 14-19, the bacterium being *E.faecium* and the immunogenic fragment having the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOS: 5-8.

23. A binding agent specific to a bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of claims 14-22 for use in a method of diagnosis of the human or animal body.

24. A binding agent specific to a bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of claims 14-23 used in a method of diagnosis.

25. A binding agent specific to a bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of claims 14-24 used in the manufacture of a diagnostic test kit.

26. A diagnostic test method for a bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of claims 14-22 comprising the steps of:

- i) reacting a binding agent according to any one of claims 23-25 with a sample from a patient;
- ii) detecting a reaction between the binding agent and antigen; and
- iii) correlating the detection of the reaction with the presence of the protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

27. A diagnostic test method according to claim 26, the binding agent comprising an antibody, and comprising the steps of:

- i) reacting an antibody according to any one of claims 23-25 with a sample from a patient;
- ii) detecting an antibody-antigen binding reaction; and
- iii) correlating the detection of the antibody-antigen binding reaction with the presence of the protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

28. A diagnostic test method for antibody specific against a bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of claims 14-22 comprising the steps of:

- i) reacting an ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof with patient antisera;
- ii) detecting an antibody-antigen binding reaction; and

- iii) correlating the detection of the antibody-antigen binding reaction with the presence of antibody specific against the bacterial or fungal ABC transporter or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

29. A kit of parts for performing a diagnostic test according to any one of claims 28-30.

30. A method of diagnosis comprising the use of a bacterial or fungal ABC transporter protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof or a binding agent specific thereto according to any one of claims 14-25.

31. A Staphylococcal homologue of IstA or IstB or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

32. A Staphylococcal homologue of IstA or IstB or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to claim 31, the Staphylococcus being selected from the group of *S. aureus*, coagulase negative staphylococci, *S. epidermidis*, *S. haemolyticus* or *S. hyicus*.

33. A Staphylococcal homologue of IstA according to claim 31, the Staphylococcus being *S. aureus* and the homologue having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10, or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

34. An immunogenic fragment of a *S. aureus* homologue of IstA according to claim 33, having the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 12-14.

35. A Staphylococcal homologue of IstB according to claim 31, the Staphylococcus being *S.aureus* and the homologue having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11, or an immunogenic fragment thereof.
36. An immunogenic fragment of a *S.aureus* homologue of IstB according to claim 35, having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15.
37. A neutralising agent specific against a Staphylococcal homologue of IstA or IstB or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of claims 31-36.
38. A binding agent specific to a Staphylococcal homologue of IstA or IstB or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to any one of claims 31-36.
39. A Staphylococcal homologue of IstA or IstB or an immunogenic fragment thereof, or a neutralising agent specific thereto or a binding agent specific thereto according to any one of claims 31-38 for use in a method of treatment or diagnosis of the human or animal body.
40. A Staphylococcal homologue of IstA or IstB or an immunogenic fragment thereof, or a neutralising agent specific thereto or a binding agent specific thereto according to any one of claims 31-39 used in a method of treatment or diagnosis.
41. A method of treatment or diagnosis of the human or animal body comprising the use of a Staphylococcal homologue of IstA or IstB or an immunogenic

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fragment thereof, or a neutralising agent specific thereto or a binding agent specific thereto according to any one of claims 31-39.